

France and Louis XIV

Absolutism

- Definition
 - The sovereign power in the hands of the king
 - Sovereignty
 - No one power or authority above / no accepted authority below
- Divine Right (?)

France expands its' borders- Many of these areas will lead to disputes until WWII - Especially the area known as Alsace



Henry of Navarre



- Rose to Throne after Henry III dies (brother of Charles IX who previously died). Henry was a whole new family!!!- House of Bourbon
- A Protestant, TWICE he changed religions and became Catholic
- Passed the **1st Edict of Nantes**
 - Catholicism is the official religion of France but Protestantism is tolerated.
 - Exception- No Protestant services in Paris**
- Promised chicken dinners once a week!
- Assassinated in 1610- His son, Louis XIII becomes King

Henry IV (r. 1588-1610)

- Wanted to strengthen and centralize power in the monarchy
- Economic policies with duke of Sully
 - Monopolies, **corvee!** (labor tax), canals
 - Mercantilism





Sully, Henry IV's finance minister

- Mercantilism
 - Believed that the world contained a fixed amount of wealth and each nation could enrich itself only at the expense of others
 - E.g. hoard bullion, more exports than imports
 - State regulation of the economy

Mercantilism- An Economic Theory

- *There is only so much wealth in the world*
- *Anytime another country gains wealth it means that my country becomes poorer*
- *Therefore its necessary to keep a positive **Balance of Trade** (Exports-Imports)*
- ***Exports** goods sold from the country*
- ***Imports** goods brought into the country*
- ***Tariffs** are taxes on trade. By having high tariffs on imports a country can reduce the number of imports it has and then have a positive Balance of Trade*
- *(**Finite World** means economics and wealth is a **Zero sum Game**)*

Modern Trade Theory- NOT FRANCE IN THE 17th CENTURY!!!!

» Trade is good

- If another country can make something cheaper, consumers in the importing country get a better good at a cheaper price.
- Our country should specialize in those types of goods that we make better and cheaper. Those goods and services will be our Exports!
- A negative trade balance is not necessarily bad.
- Trade promotes cooperation and interdependence which means less conflict (War)
- The Pie (Wealth in the World) is not limited (finite). A vibrant economy often devises new and innovative methods to make goods.

Louis XIII (r. 1610-1643)



- Became king at 9
- Chief Minister - Cardinal Richelieu



Louis XIII

- Henry IV's son
- Age 9 when he became King, ruled 1610-1643
- A *Regent* acted on his behalf until he became an adult
- Cardinal Richelieu dominated the throne
- Louis 13th was a relatively weak King, however through Cardinal Richelieu, future French Kings would dominate the landscape

When a Ruler is too young to Rule, the person acting on his/her behalf is called a Regent



Cardinal Richelieu

- Ruled France during the Reign of Louis XIII (13th)
- Worried about Huguenots- starved out the Huguenot dominated City of La Rochelle

How does a Church Official gain so much Governmental Power???

Remember the title Cardinal is only granted by the Pope!

Cardinal Richelieu (1585-1642)

- Centralized power and limited power of nobles
 - Sold offices
 - Intendants represented crown throughout country and oversaw parlements
 - “Raison d’etat” – propaganda
- Anti-Huguenot
 - Attacked Huguenots and Limited provisions of Edict of Nantes
- Anti-Habsburg
 - Supported Protestants in 30 Years War



Louis XIV (r. 1643-1715)

- Became King at 5
- Cardinal Mazarin
 - Continued Richelieu's centralization policies
 - Italian
- The Fronde (1649-1652)
 - Uprising of nobles in the Paris parlement opposed to centralization
 - Louis and Mazarin fled – nobles ruled poorly
 - Convinced people of need for a strong king





Cardinal Mazarin another powerful church official????

- Educated by the Jesuits at Rome accepted Cardinal Richelieu's (see slide) offer of entering the service of the King of France, and in 1639 became a naturalized Frenchman.
- The *Frondes* in the mid 1600s, were largely due to mistakes by Mazarin
- Mazarin was primarily interested in extending French power over Europe- which Louis XIV would later accomplish.



Louis XIV

Sun King

1643-1715



Built Versailles- outside of Paris

- Consolidated Rule- Nobles were all forced to live at Versailles
- Enlarged Army- Largest army in Europe, 400,000!!! Troops
- Fought several Wars- Other European nations allied w/one another to fend Louis off
- Expanded territorial borders of France
- Advocated Mercantilism (see slide)
- REVOKED THE EDICT OF NANTES (see Henry IV slide)
- Other Kings wanted to emulate Louis- Era of the Divine Right of Kings
 - Elaborate rituals surrounded Louis court at Versailles
 - Money flowed from the Treasury, beginning a century of financial problems for France

“L’etat c’est Moi”

As a youth he escaped near death in Paris- he never liked Paris

Helped Charles II and James II of England- secretly sought to restore Catholicism to England

Louis XIV

- Approach to power
 - Domestic: Control nobles
 - International: Secure borders
 - Divine Right: Bishop Jacques Bossuet
- Quotes:
 - The Sun King
 - “L’etat, c’est moi” – “I am the state”
 - “One king, one law, one faith”

Versailles

- Formal hunting lodge on outskirts of Paris
- Moved court there in 1680's
- Purposes
 - Control nobles without diminishing the value of being a noble
 - Use art and architecture to awe subjects and visitors
- Court life structured around king and routine
- Etiquette, dress codes, gambling
- 10,000 nobles, officials, and servants

Mr. Balazs' summer house? No this
is VERSAILLES



Royal Chapel



A very nice Room at Versailles

- What future Treaty's were signed at Versailles?





Gardens
of
Versailles

The Gardens



The Opera



The Gardens



King's Salon





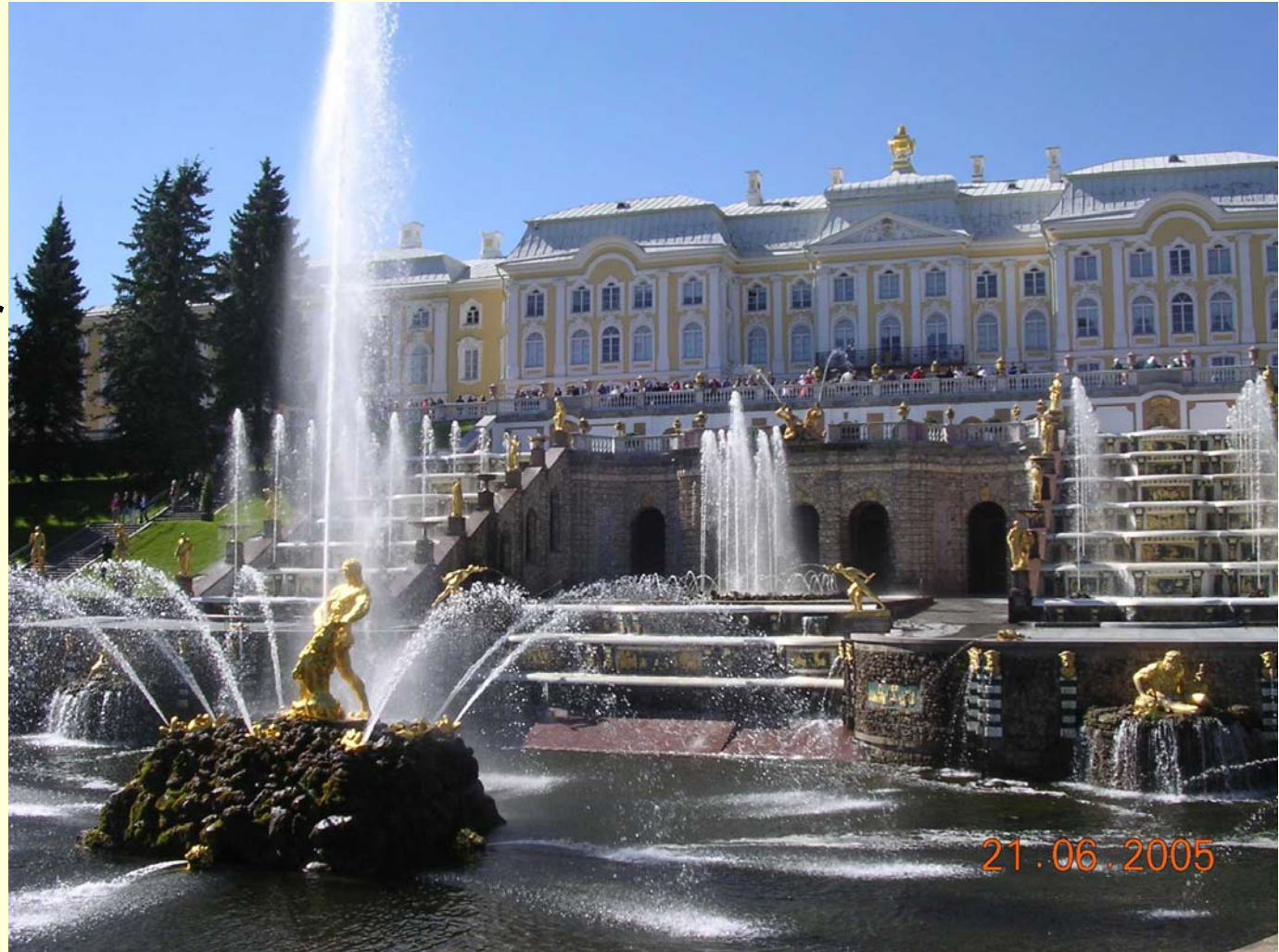
Queen's Bedchamber





Other Kings Tried to Build Their Own Versailles

- **Peterhof-**
Built by **Peter the Great**, Ruler of **Russia**, he built Peterhof after visiting Versailles



And Yet another Palace



**- Sans Souci Palace
Built by Frederick the
Great of Prussia in
approx. 1744
Located in Potsdam
(outside of Berlin)
Germany.**

**The gardens are
approximately the
same size as Central
Park NYC!!!**



What did all these Kings, Queens and Emperors have in common????



Another Versailles “copy”

- Schoenbrunn, located in Vienna, Austria, built by the Hapsburg's Dynasty
- 1706-1711



OKAY JUST ONE MORE

Guess where this is
located. Hint it's not
Darien



- BUILT IN
1702 BY A
DUKE
AND
SOLD TO
GEORGE
III IN 1761



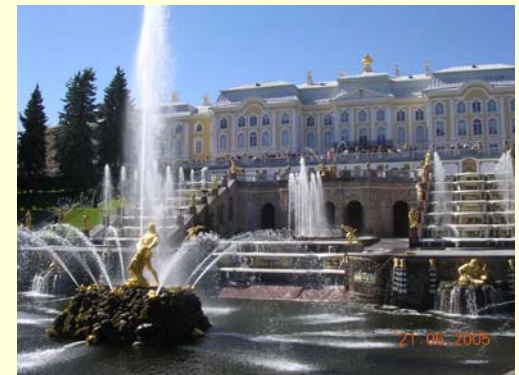


What was similar to all these Palaces?

Think



- Location and Design? **How are these Palaces different from castles?**
- Review the Term **Baroque**- how did the **palaces reflect the Baroque period of art?**
- The message to the People and Nobles???
- How does a residence reflect its' owner?



Financial Policies

- Jean Baptiste Colbert (1619-83)
 - Chief finance minister
 - Mercantilism to rival United Provinces (Netherlands)

Jean Colbert

Finance Minister



- *Contrôleur général* (roughly, minister of finance) under King Louis XIV of France. Colbert managed, against the incredible odds of the Sun King's extravagance, to keep some financial order.
- Mercantilist doctrine -> expansion of commerce (and the maintenance of a favorable balance of trade) was the key to State wealth.
- Colbert was not interested in internal commerce which, in his view, did nothing for State wealth.
 - Restrictions on the movement of goods and labor between regions of France remained in place.
- **Improve internal transportation network**, -> to connect the ports to French import-export industries.

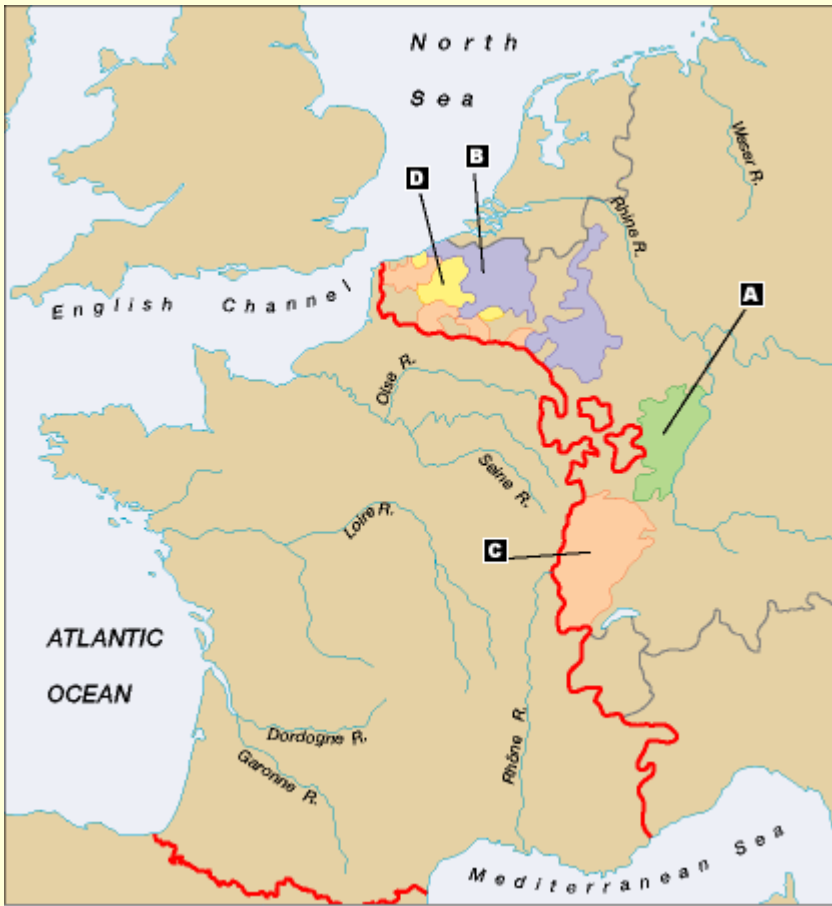
Religious Policies

- Jansenists
 - Anti-Jesuit group of Catholics
 - Popular among nobles
 - “Crypto-Calvinists”
 - Banned by Pope and suppressed by Louis
- Edict of Nantes
 - Revoked in 1685
 - Huguenots fled in exile

The Military and the Wars

- Army
 - Led by Marquis of Louvois
 - Professional – not mercenaries, but paid well by the state
 - 100,000 – 400,000 people
 - Respected by people b/c disciplined
 - Superior tactics
 - Louis = “warrior king”
 - Sought “la gloire”

France under Louis XIV



- A – Franche Comte
- B – Spanish Netherlands
- C – Franche Comte
- D – Lille

War of Devolution (1667-68)

- Louis claimed land in Spanish Netherlands through his wife
- Invaded Sp. Netherlands and Franche-Comte
- Triple Alliance – Dutch, England, Sweden defeated him
- Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle – gained some territory

Invasion of the Netherlands (1672-78)

- Did not forgive the Dutch
- Invaded – alliance of Spain, Brandenburg, and HRE forced peace (also w/Charles I)
- France gained Franche-Comte

Nine Years War 1689-1697

(sometimes called King William's War)

- War against Holy Roman Empire
- Took Alsace-Lorraine and Strasbourg
- League of Augsburg – Spain, HRE, United Provinces, Sweden, England – stopped France
- Led to economic depression and famine
- Treaty of Ryswick – kept Strasbourg


Last 25 yrs, Louis married his mistress, gave up his extramarital affairs-> 25 yrs of almost continuous warfare?
What's the relationship????

War of the Spanish Succession

- France versus- Everyone in Pink (Grand Alliance)

Europe Feared a Unified Spanish-French Kingdom when Louis XIV's grandson, Philip V was next in line to become King of Spain



 War of the Spanish Succession. The great British victories in this war were in the Spanish Netherlands and the Holy Roman Empire and they established Britain as a great power.

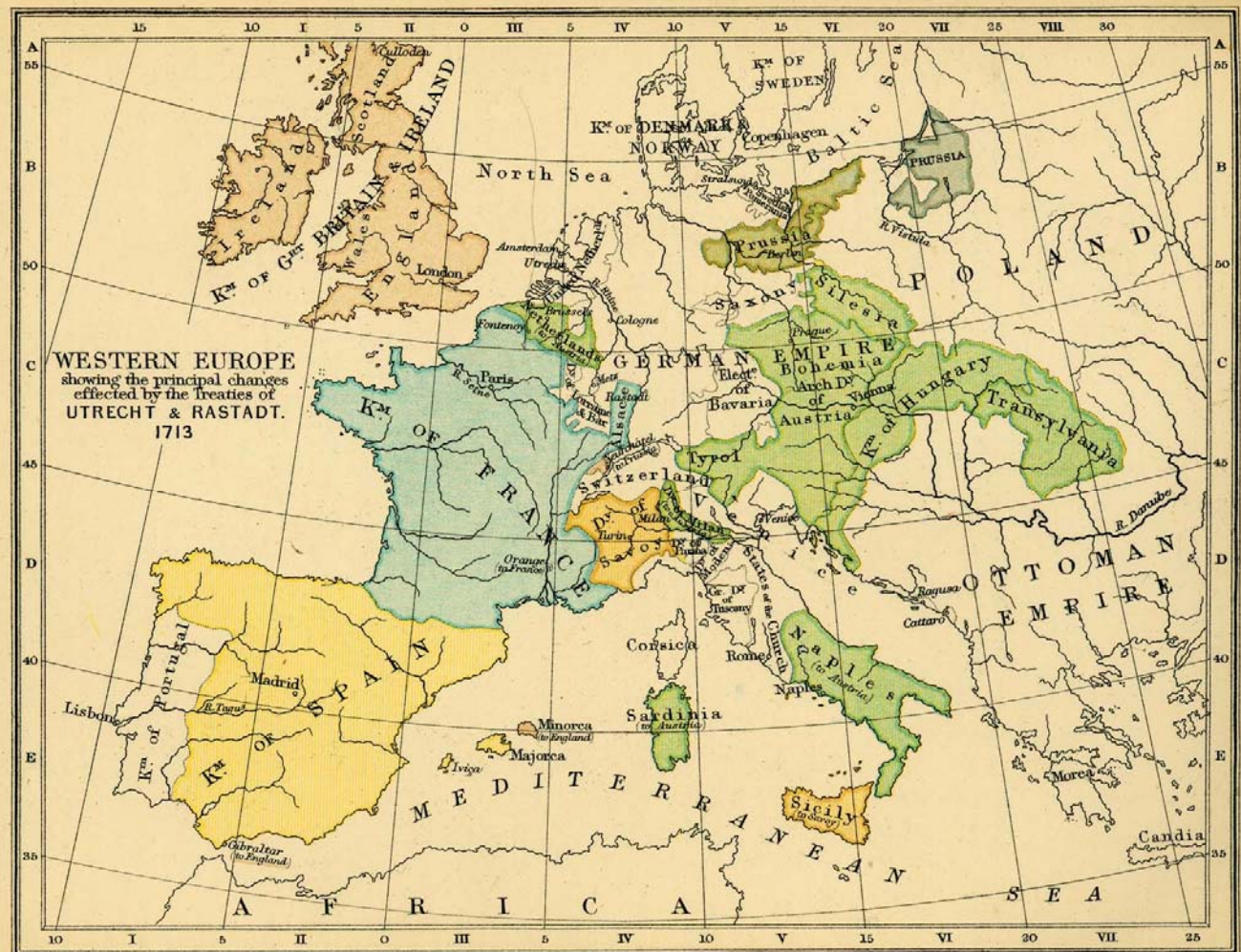
War of the Spanish Succession (1702-1713)

(sometimes called Queen Anne's War)

- Death of Charles II of Spain
 - Throne left to Philip of Anjou, grandson of Louis XIV
 - Philip V
- Grand Alliance – England, Holland, HRE
 - Feared unity of Spain and France
- Peaces of Utrecht and Rastatt
 - Philip V ruled Spain but thrones could not unite

In 1713, the British and French crowns, signed the Treaty of Utrecht in the Netherlands. The treaty was one of a series of treaties ending the European War of the Spanish Succession. England and other Europeans powers welcomed this opportunity to also limit the expanding influence of France in the New World (North America).

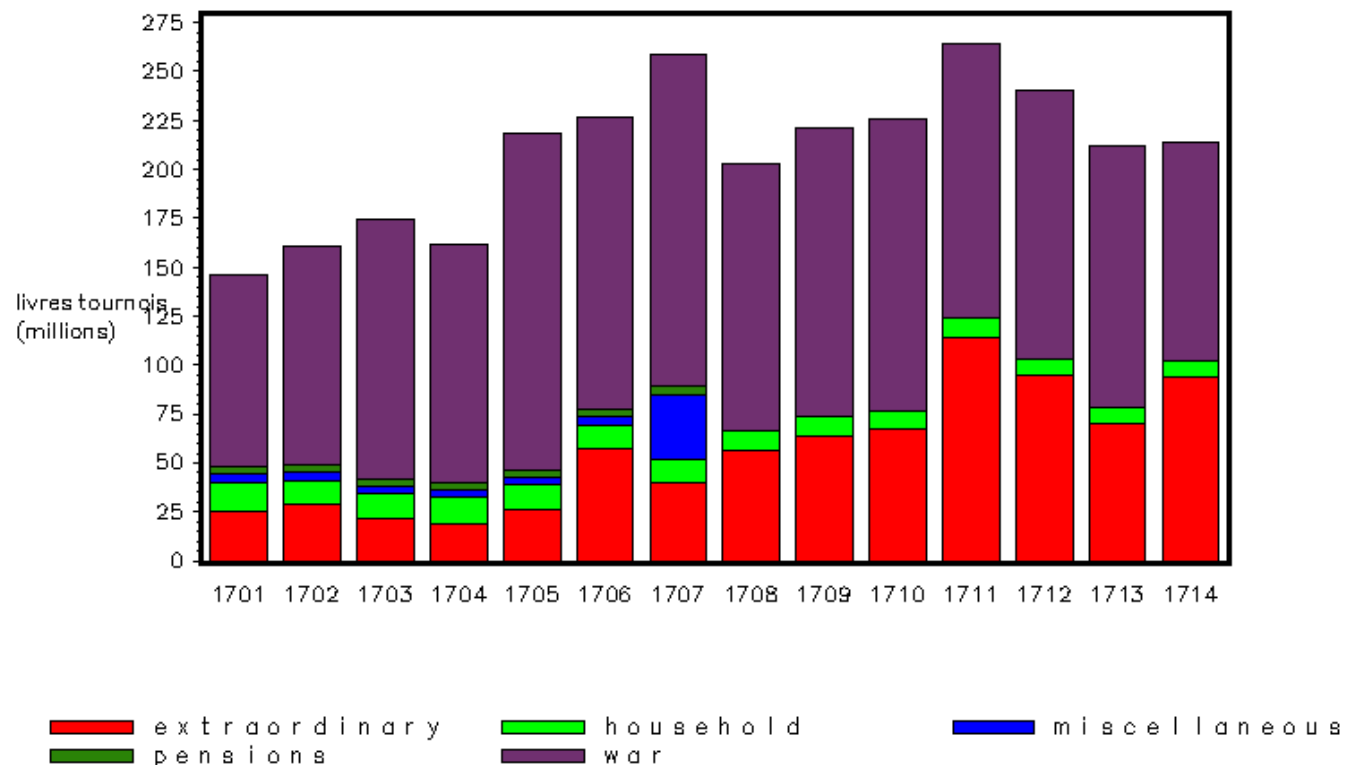
Treaty of Utrecht



The Costs of Extravagance- Wars and Keeping up the Palace

Wars are
Expensive-

Figure 7: French royal expenditure during the war of the Spanish succession, 1701–1714



Death of Louis XIV

- Regretted wars
- Left France in financial trouble
- No legacy of representation

What will eventually become of France at the end of the 18th Century (1700s)????

- Money Problems
- Taxes!!!
- Famine
- Rising food prices
- Serfdom
- Questions of Authority
- Rise of the Bourgeoisie
- Defeat in Wars
- REVOLUTION



Renee Descartes

Philosophe and Mathematician

“I think - therefore I am”



Other sayings by Descartes:

- If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things.
- The reading of all good books is indeed like a conversation with the noblest men of past centuries who were the authors of them, nay a carefully studied conversation, in which they reveal to us none but the best of their thoughts.
- Except our own thoughts, there is nothing absolutely in our power.
- An optimist may see a light where there is none, but why must the pessimist always run to blow it out?
- It is not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it well.
- When it is not in our power to follow what is true, we ought to follow what is most probable.